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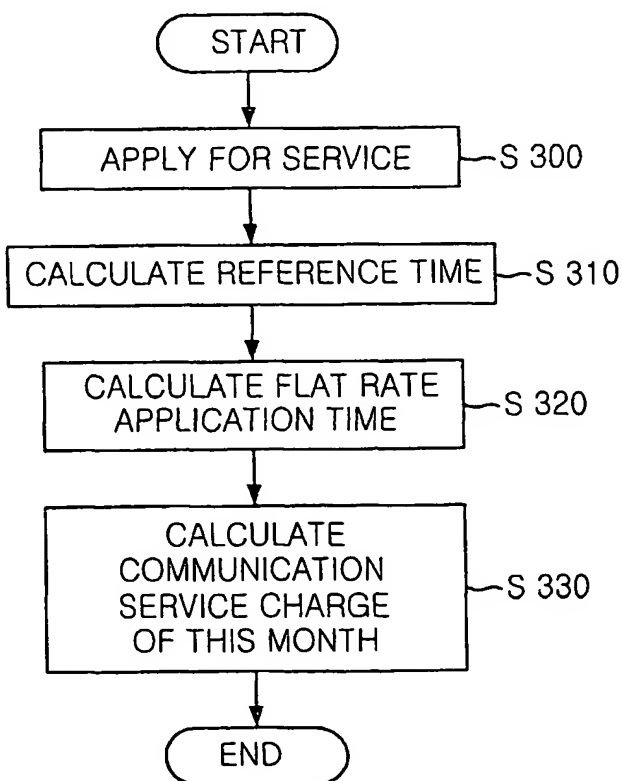
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(54) Title: BILLING METHOD FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE BASED ON FIXED FEE



(57) Abstract: Provided is a billing method for telecommunication service based on fixed fee according to user's usage time. The method includes the steps of: estimating reference time according to user's usage time of the previous term; estimating guarantee time; reading user's usage time of this term; and billing telecommunication service fare according to the reference time and the guarantee time.



— with amended claims

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 13 April 2004 (13.04.04);
original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A method for calculating a telecommunication service charge of a user based on a predetermined length of time for which the user uses the telecommunication service, comprising the steps of:
- a) calculating reference time of the user based on telecommunication service use time for a predetermined period;
 - 10 b) calculating flat rate application time based on the a predetermined additional amount, the flat rate application time being a period during which flat rate is applied after the reference time;
 - c) reading the user's telecommunication service subscription time of this month from a database for storing the user's telecommunication service usage history; and
 - 15 d) imposing a first service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is shorter than the reference time, imposing a second service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is longer than the reference time and shorter than the flat rate application time, and imposing a third service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is longer than the flat rate application time.
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2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first service charge is a service charge corresponding to the reference time.
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3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to the service charge corresponding to the reference time.